

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18546

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: ART EXHIBIT ORGANIZER ATTACKED AND HARASSED

REF: MOSCOW 18080

1. POPULAR MOSCOW EVENING NEWSPAPER, "VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA," RAN STRONG ATTACK DECEMBER 12 ON ART COLLECTOR ALEKSANDR GLEZER IN NASTY ARTICLE ENTITLED, "AND NEVERTHELESS AGAIN THE DOUBLE BOTTOM" (I.E., THE FALSE BOTTOM OF A SMUGGLER'S SUITCASE). GLEZER HAS BEEN ONE OF THE LEADERS IN RECENT EFFORTS OF NON-CONFORMIST ARTIST'S TO STAGE EXHIBITS IN MOSCOW. ARTICLE REFERS TO SIMILAR ATTACK BY SAME AUTHOR (R. STROKOV, PRESUMABLY A PSEUDONYM) IN PAPER FEBRUARY 20, 1970, WHICH ACCUSED GLEZER OF SPECULATING IN ART AND FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS. INTER ALIA, ARTICLE RAKES GLEZER OVER THE COALS FOR (1) SPECULATION IN ANTI-SOVIET BOOKS (POSEV PUBLISHING HOUSE MENTIONED) AND ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES; (2) MAKING HIMSELF OUT TO BE A "FIGHTER FOR CREATIVE FREEDOM"; (3) HAVING EXTENSIVE CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS IN MOSCOW, PARTICULARLY WITH WESTERN JOURNALISTS; AND (4) ACTING AS A MARIONETTE FOR "ENEMIES OF DETENTE" IN THE WEST. IN DESCRIBINNG GLEZER'S ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH ABORTED SEPTEMBER 15

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CHEREMUSHKINSKIY EXHIBIT, ARTICLE SCORNS SO-CALLED

"UNRECOGNIZED" ARTISTS, AND WHITEWASHES ACTIONS OF AUTHORITIES IN BREAKING UP EXHIBIT. ARTICLE ENDS WITH THREAT, ASKING IT IT ISN'T ABOUT TIME THAT SOCIETY SHOULD MAKE GLEZER ANSWER FOR HIS "MISERABLE DEALINGS."

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL ARTIST SOURCES, KGB CONDUCTED EIGHT-HOUR SEARCH OF GLEZER'S APARTMENT DECEMBER 12, CONFISCATED NUMBER OF BOOKS PUBLISHED IN WEST, AND HAULED GLEZER IN FOR QUESTIONING. GLEZER REPORTEDLY FREED SAME DAY, BUT AMERICAN NEWSMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS PICKED UP AGAIN DECEMBER 13.

3. COMMENT: GLEZER IS PRIME TARGET FOR AUTHORITIES IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO KEEP NON-CONFORMIST ARTISTS OFF BALANCE AND DISORGANIZED BECAUSE HE IS NOT AN ARTIST HIMSELF AND IS THEREFORE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHARGES OF "SPECULATION." HE HAS ALSO BEEN LEADING FORCE IN URGING ARTISTS ON TO MORE DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH AUTHORITIES. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY (REFTEL), AUTHORITIES HAVE ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING ATTEMPT BY ARTISTS TO HOLD ANOTHER EXHIBIT IN DECEMBER. TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CURRENT ATTACK ARE NOTEWORTHY. FIRST, THERE IS A CLEAR WARNING IN THE ARTICLE ABOUT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGNERS (MOST OF THE ARTISTS INVOLVED HAVE THEM). SECOND, ARTICLE MAKES CLEAR THAT GLEZER IS JEWISH BY GIVING HIS PATRONYMIC, "DANIDOVICH." LINKING HIM WITH SPECULATION AND ILLEGAL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN A NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS RUN ARTICLES WITH ANTI-SEMITIC OVERTONES IN THE PAST, MAY BE AIMED AT GIVING LOCAL DISSIDENTS A DOUBLE WARNING.  
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